

For-Hire Survey Meeting Minutes
Narragansett, RI
May 18, 2005

1) Discussion of summary data:

- a. Data doesn't reflect the different stocks (i.e. Georges Bank cod vs. other stocks)
Data just produces an estimate for Atlantic Cod by state.
 - i. *These are accounted for at the management level through the use of biological models.*

2) Respondent Burden:

- a. Logsheet – two species of shark that are federally protected – Sand Tiger and White – should be removed. Thresher should be added.
- b. Telephone survey is too duplicative – always the same questions. Takes too long.
 - i. *New in 2005 – change to phone questionnaire that allows interviewers to more easily record when trips are the same (i.e. same time, location, # of anglers, etc). RI captain with multiple boats noticed change. All captains agreed this would help improve cooperation.*
- c. CT captain said he got letter but no phone call. NMFS needs to work on credibility of contractor to collect these data. Captains are suspicious of the information that is asked.
- d. Why do you need information on other fishing trips?
 - i. *Other trip information is obtained to complete the dockside validation component. To be credible with managers, self-reported data needs to be validated to correct for under-/over-reporting. FHS data are validated through dockside visits by the same surveyors who interview anglers dockside. In order to ensure that the total number of trips isn't adjusted improperly, the FHS collects information on ALL trips (i.e. when boat is away from slip). However, for these private, non for-hire trips, and additional trips for bait/fuel, FHS only collects the date.*

3) Timely estimates:

- a. Fuzziness on how refusals are calculated. Macro field interviewer said they count missed anglers by asking mate how many people onboard fished. Concern by some captains since only those who “actively fished” are reported in the telephone interview.
 - i. *Missed interviews are counted towards assessing the fishing activity (i.e. pressure) at a sight, but are not counted in refusals. Captains are correct – the number of angler trips is calculated by the number of vessel trips and total number of anglers who “actively fished” as reported by the captain from the for-hire telephone survey.*
- b. When will VTR comparisons be done?
 - i. *Comparisons are planned for 2004 for vessels that are included in FHS and submit VTRs. Timeline for these comparisons is still being developed – VTR data is not final until June/July. Results will be shared with states and for-hire community. Effort comparisons will be paramount, additional analyses will follow.*